Shiranui Kitanroku

BY INAI KAORU

Kaito Zero

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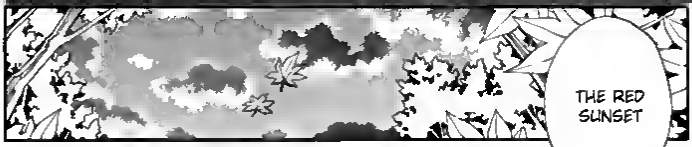
chapter 3

日用品 タバコ
アサヒ堂
TOBACCO
OH, YOU RESEARCH FOLKLORE? YOU HAVE A STRANGE TASTE
IT'S TRUE THAT THE A GOD FOR FAMILY HARMONY CALLED SOMEI-SAN IS WORSHIPED AROUND HERE BUT
THE NUMBER OF WORSHIPPERS HAS COMPLETELY DROPPED
THE ONLY PERSON WHO IS STILL A DEVOUT WORSHIPPER IS PROBABLY JUST SAKURA-CHAN FROM NAGATO-SAN'S FAMILY.
SFX WHOOSH

紐解く怪奇の足音
しらぬい奇譚録
しらぬいきたんろく
Shiranui Kitanroku
「其の参」
SAKURA
平井カオル


THE RED SUNSET

.. NAGATO SAKURA-SAN?
THE CROWS IN THE MOUN-TAIN...

SANK AND FELL♪

I APOLOGISE FOR APPEARING ALL OF A SUDDEN.
MY NAME IS SHIRANUI.
YES...?
REGARDING THE STORIES PASSED DOWN AROUND THIS AREA...
SFX: THUP
SFX: HIVE
...
IT'S ALRIGHT I DON'T MIND.
I'M SORRY. MY SISTER'S SCARED OF STRANGERS..
AH! AYAME!
YOU'RE BEING RUDE.

WE MUST TALK OVER IT LEISURELY AT HOME..
THAT'S RIGHT! WHY DON'T YOU STAY OVER?
YOU'RE RESEARCHING ABOUT SOMEI-SAN?
WE'VE JUST COME BACK FROM VISITING THERE.
I'M SURE MY FAMILY WILL BE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU!
SFX: CLATTER
WE'RE HOME!
OH? HE IS?
WELCOME HOME...
OUR GUEST SHIRANUI-SAN.
THAT'S ALRIGHT, RIGHT? MOTHER, FATHER.
HE'S GOING TO STAY OVER TONIGHT!
WELL WE DON'T MIND...

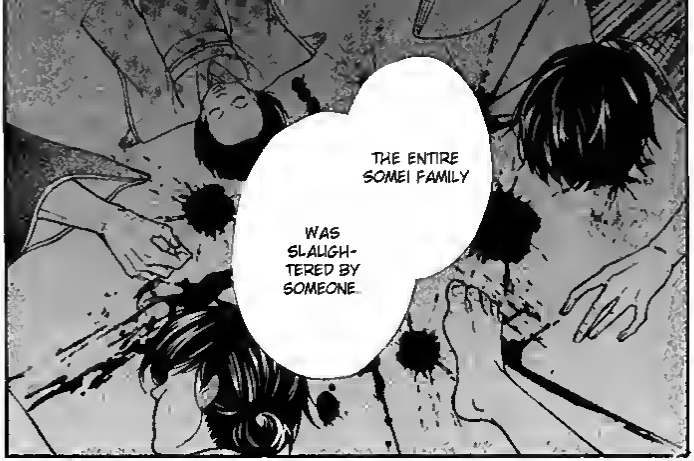
I APOLO-GISE BEING SO NOISY.
HUH?
DON'T DO THAT IN FRONT OF A GUEST!
FATHER!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE'VE HAD A GUEST!
AYAME WAS COMPLETELY NERVOUS...
INCLUDING MY PARENTS, THERE ARE SEVEN OF US ALTOGETHER.
WE'RE SO NOISY IT'S LIVELY EVERY DAY.
IS THAT SO? SIX PEOPLE...
YES SIX OTHER THAN ME...
TARO— LET'S GO——!

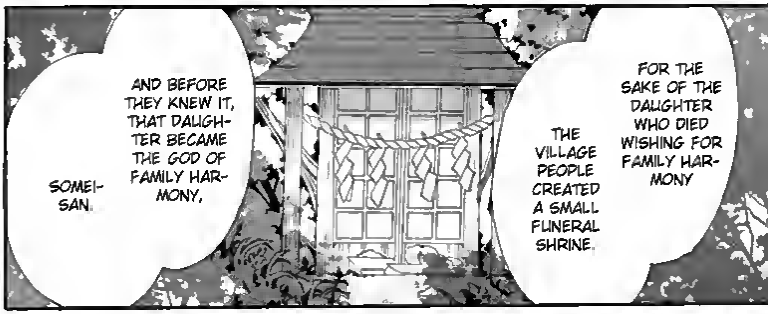
I'M GOING TO THROW THIS NEXT!
HEY KAEDE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN FRONT OF A GUEST?!
SHUT UP— UG—LY!
SFX WOOF!
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU CALLING YOUR OWN SISTER?!
EH?
UM, KAEDE IS MY YOUNGER BROTHER..
IS THAT SO... I APOLOGISE.
IS KAEDE-SAN YOUR YOUNGER SISTER?
IT'S FINE. HIS NAME DOES SOUND LIKE A GIRL'S.

NOTE: SAKURA MEANS CHERRY BLOSSOM
AT ANY RATE, THAT CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE IS MAGNIFI-CENT.
IT'S NEARLY WINTER YET IT'S STILL IN FULL BLOOM.
DOES IT FLOWER OFF SEASON?
heh heh
AS A PERSON ALSO CALLED "SAKURA" I MUST PROTEST AT BEING CALLED "OFF"
I HAVE SPOKEN IM-POLITELY... ONCE AGAIN.
EVER SINCE I HEARD OF A STORY SAYING THAT "UNDERNEATH A BEAUTIFUL CHERRY BLOS-SOM TREE LIES A CORPSE".
NO MATTER WHAT, I ALWAYS LOOK AT CHERRY BLOSSOM TREES THAT WAY
CERTAINLY, UNDERNEATH THAT TREE...
OH PLEASE SHIRANUI-SAN
IF AYAME HEARS SUCH A SCARY STORY SHE'LL CRY.

SPEAKING OF SCARY,
THE ORIGIN OF SOMEI-SAN HAS ALSO A RATHER MEANINGFUL STORY BEHIND IT.
EH.. ORIGIN?
I WAS CERTAIN YOU WERE AWARE OF IT.
I, I APOLOGISE
I ONLY KNOW IT AS A GOD OF FAMILY HARMONY..
THE TRUTH IS, WE MOVED HERE FROM THE CITY THREE YEARS AGO.
MY FATHER'S BUSINESS FAILED.. AND IT WAS SO OUT OF A SUDDEN.
THERE ARE STILL SO MANY THINGS I DON'T KNOW... IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, PLEASE TELL ME ABOUT IT.
SFX: FLIP
SFX: INHALE
YES OF COURSE.
A LONG LONG TIME AGO
A FAMILY CALLED SOMEI LIVED AROUND THIS AREA.

THEY WERE A FAMILY WHO WERE ON EXTREMELY BAD TERMS
EVERY DAY, ALL THEY DID WAS FIGHT.
APPARENTLY, THEY WERE A FAMILY WHO LIVED WITH MUTUAL HATRED WITH EACH OTHER.
THE ELDEST DAUGHTER WAS THE ONLY ONE
WHO VERY TREASURED THE FAMILY.
SHE WOULD MAKE AN EFFORT EVERY SINGLE DAY TO RECONCILE THE FAMILY
SHE EVEN BECAME FAMOUS EVEN WITH THE VILLAGE PEOPLE
AND THEY WHISPERED THAT SHE WAS SOMEI FAMILY'S GUARDIAN DEITY
HOWEVER HER WISH WAS NOT GRANTED
EH!
ONE AUTUMN NIGHT


THE ENTIRE SOMEI FAMILY
WAS SLAUGHTERED BY SOMEONE.


FOR THE SAKE OF THE DAUGHTER WHO DIED WISHING FOR FAMILY HARMONY
THE VILLAGE PEOPLE CREATED A SMALL FUNERAL SHRINE.
AND BEFORE THEY KNEW IT, THAT DAUGHTER BECAME THE GOD OF FAMILY HARMONY,
SOMEI-SAN.

ACTUALLY, MY FAMILY
ALSO HAD A PERIOD WHERE WE DIDN'T GET ALONG...
SO THAT WAS WHAT HAPPENED.
..

OUR GRANDPARENTS LIVING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE ALWAYS WELCOMED US.
KAEDE WAS THE BEST, AYAME WAS OBEDIENT.
A GENTLE FATHER, A KIND MOTHER
WHEN THE BUSINESS WAS GOING WELL
DESPITE ALL THAT
EVER SINCE WE CAME HERE
COMI TO LIVE WITH U NE DON'T HAVE ROOM FOR YOU.
HOW LONG E YO PLANNING TO STAY HERE?
WAN TO GO BACK T OUR OLD HOUSE
I'M LEAV NG THIS FAMILY
IF I DON'T GET THE CONSO LATION MONEY TION
IF NLY DN' MARRIED HIM
BECAUSE
I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS STRANGE FOR A FAMILY TO BE LIKE THAT

ALWAYS GETTING ALONG AND LIVING TOGETHER, HELPING EACH OTHER IN TOUGH TIMES AND HARD TIMES. EVEN IF YOU FIGHT YOU CAN MAKE UP THE NEXT DAY. EVERYONE WILL DEFINITELY EAT TOGETHER. GOING OUT SOMEWHERE ON DAYS OFF. AND MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING ELSE, MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING IS LOVING ONE ANOTHER.
THAT IS WHAT A FAMILY IS, RIGHT?
THAT WAS WHEN I HEARD ABOUT SOMEI-SAN
I DESPERATELY VISITED EVERY SINGLE DAY
PRAYING THAT MY FAMILY WOULD RETURN TO NORMAL...
SAKURA-CHAN,
THE MOON IS BEAUTIFUL TONIGHT.

GEEZ, GRANDMA
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD IN SUCH THIN CLOTHING!
SFX: JUMP
SHIRANUI-SAN!
RIGHT NOW I'M
VERY HAPPY.

I'M SURE SOMEI-SAN LENT ME HER POWER.
SFX: CHIRP CHIRP
チュン チュン
YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?
YOU HAVEN'T HAD BREAKFAST YET...
I NEED TO GO TO MY NEXT DESTINATION.
IF YOU REALLY DON'T MIND...
PLEASE COME TO VISIT AGAIN.
...SAKURA-SAN

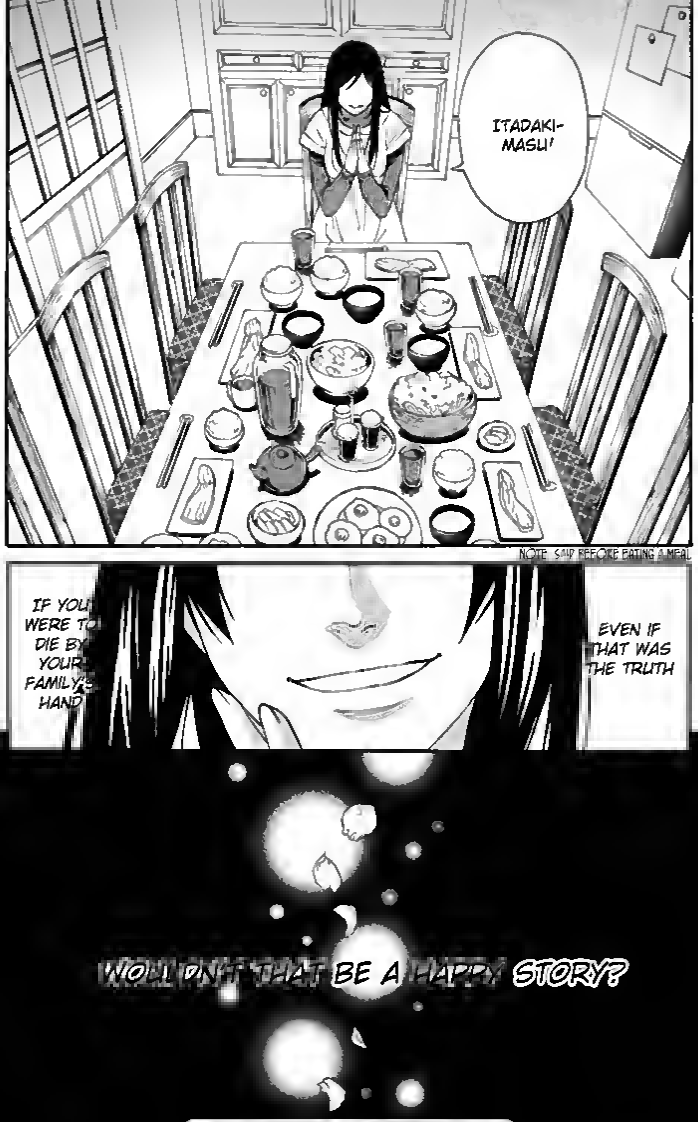
WHO DO YOU THINK WAS THE CULPRIT WHO MURDERED THE SOMEI'S THAT NIGHT?
WE SPOKE ABOUT THE ORIGIN OF SOMEI-SAN LAST NIGHT.
I THINK
IT WAS THE DAUGHTER OF THE HOUSE "SOMEI-SAN" HERSELF WHO DID IT.

SUI...CIDE..
...WHAT DO YOU THINK?
..I DON'T KNOW
WHAT REALLY HAPPENED... BUT...
THAT IT FORCED FAMILY SUICIDE INITIATED BY THE DAUGHTER
WHO HAD LOST HOPE IN HER QUARRELLING FAMILY.

EVEN IF
THAT WAS THE TRUTH...
...OH
IT'S THE ODDBALL FROM YESTERDAY.
UNTIL A LITTLE WHILE BACK, VOICES OF FIGHTING COULD BE HEARD FROM EVEN OUTSIDE THE HOUSE BUT
RECENTLY, THEY'VE BEEN COMPLETELY QUIET... WAS EVERYONE ALL WELL?
OH, SO YOU STAYED OVER AT NAGATO-SAN'S HOUSE YESTERDAY.
THERE IS SOMETHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THAT FAMILY.

YES.
EX-
TREMELY
LIVELY
I IMAGINE.
わん
SFX WOOF
SFX WOOF
THEY
SOUNDED
LIKE A HAPPY
FAMILY.
わん
わん
わん
SFX WOOF
SFX SCRITCH SCRITCH
SFX WOOF
SFX SCRITCH SCRATCH

AYAME, HELP CARRY THE RICE TOO!
KAEDE, TAKE FATHER'S BOWL!
SFX CLANK
AH, MOTHER, I'LL DO THAT!
SFX CLINK
GRANDPA AND GRANDMA LIKE THEIR EGGS HARD, RIGHT?
SFX CLAP
OKAY, EV-ERYONE PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER!


ITADAKI-MASU!
NOTE: SAID BEFORE EATING A MEAL
IF YOU WERE TO DIE BY YOUR FAMILY'S HAND
EVEN IF THAT WAS THE TRUTH
WOULDN'T THAT BE A HAPPY STORY?
To be continued...